

### **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 3 is hereby amended. Claims 39-41 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner has requested election of species to one of two groups identified on page 2 of the Action. Applicants confirm the election of Species "a", Figures 1-16. Claims 1-34 and 42-58 read on the elected species. Claims 39-41 are canceled as they are drawn to the non-elected invention.

Claims 3, 6, 9, and 11 were rejected as being anticipated by Funato (US 6,072,579). Claim 3 has been amended to incorporate matter from claim 4, which was not subjected to the rejection. Therefore the rejection is moot. Claims 6, 9, and 11 depend from claim 3 and also are allowable. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

Claims 1-6, 9-17, 20-28, 31-34, and 42-59 were rejected as being anticipated by Ohyama (US 6,512,608). Ohyama has an effective prior art date of December 15, 2000. The present application claims priority to JP2000-207001 filed July 7, 2000. A verified translation is provided herewith. Therefore, Ohyama is not available as prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of Ohyama to the claims.

Applicants request that the Examiner provide a form 892 listing the references considered during examination.

App. No. 09/898,781  
Office Action Dated July 26, 2004

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371-5237.

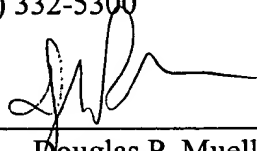


Dated: November 18, 2004

DPM:mfe

Respectfully submitted,

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By   
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